



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by State Senator Andrew Maynard.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Mayor Watson presented State Representative Elissa T. Wright with a plaque for her service on the Town Council.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, discussed the Permanent School Building Committee meeting minutes on the Town's website. Mr. Sutherland stated that although the status of the school building projects is referenced, he would find it beneficial if more details and data were provided on this website as well.

Joan Smith, 58 Mohegan Road, a director of Groton Open Space Association (GOSA), recommended that the Council collaborate with the Planning and Zoning Commissions to seek a moratorium on all new applications for development within the Groton Water Resource Protection District. Ms. Smith stated that a plan which was introduced at the Planning Commission meeting on February 13 will have a harmful effect on the reservoir system.

Ed Ettinger, 174 Cedar Road, inquired if the Council is responsible for monitoring the school construction projects. Upon review of Permanent School Building Committee meeting minutes he noticed "a change of scope" with respect to the school construction projects. He feels it is significant that two of the roofs were changed from a metal material to a plastic material. Mr. Ettinger also noticed a change in the architectural design from a concrete facing to a shaved block facing. He stated that all citizens should have access to a monthly report of the school building projects.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Responding to Ms. Smith, Councilor Bartinik stated that it would be helpful if requests would cite the legal authority by which the Council may comply.

Responding to Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Ettinger, Councilor Sheets agreed that the Town's website should have more current information available.

Responding to Mr. Sutherland, the Mayor acknowledged and apologized for the fact that he had

not contacted a former petitioner but will do so in the near future.

Councilor Kolnaski stated that the Permanent School Building Committee is interested in any constructive ideas and mindful that information should be publicized.

2007-0042 Jurisdictional Issues Over Watershed Lands

JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES OVER WATERSHED LANDS

Referred

Mayor Watson made a referral to the Committee of the Whole to discuss jurisdictional issues over the watershed.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0029 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 6, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2003-0068 Establishment of Agricultural Land Preservation Fund

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2003-0195 Nuisance/Property Maintenance Code

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2003-0237 Annual Report Content/Format Review/Revisions

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0021 Spicer/Sparkle Lake and Nigrelli Property Acquisition

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0048 Groton Code of Ethics

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0055 Comprehensive Tax Burden Analysis

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0068 Participation in Town Council Meetings by Telephone

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0134 Gravel Street Pump Station Dock

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0195 Tax Incentive Policy - Revisit

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0203 Bulky Waste Disposal Options

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2004-0233 Updating the Build Out and Fiscal Impact Analyses

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0153 Sewer Investigation on South Road and Trent Lane

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

- 2005-0271 Watershed Protection Ordinance**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2005-0290 Groton Community Center**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2006 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2006 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2006 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0004 Revised Position Descriptions (2006 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0009 Town Council Rules Revisions (2006 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0015 Town Attorney Involvement in Land Use Appeals**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0046 Fiscal Impact Statements for New Programs**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0083 Copp Property Management**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0107 Policy for Town-Owned Open Space**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0110 Marketing of Marine Science Opportunities**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0118 Reuse of Town Buildings**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0134 Noise Ordinance**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0135 Potential Designation of Shennecossett Golf Course on National Historic Register**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2006-0168 Ledyard's Request for Sewer Service**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0033 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Mystic River Homes Tax Abatement Ordinance**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0023 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Kane Family and Shoreline Diving Services, Inc. - \$2,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathleen Hanson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pamela Ryley - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Kathleen M. Hanson - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Margaret Nolan - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
E. R. Aleskiewicz - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Suzanne Talbot - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Susan Chase Hildebrand - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Craig Moody - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James Milligan - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Susan Degregorio - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathy Houston - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Judith Goldsmith-Karp - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Deborah Crofts - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pamela Faley - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Robin Doyle - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Sashi Govin - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wilbur in memory of Frank Cashman - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary
Larry Kuhse - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Adnan H. Naqvi - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jennifer Spreng - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lucia Faithfull - \$75.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Groton Lions Club - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Charles L. Carroll - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Andrea Carlow - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Janet VonDeck - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Susan Weiss - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Order of the Knights of Rizal, New London County Chapter - \$50.00 - Library Discretionary
Ruth Ann Eichelberg - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Anonymous - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Fitch High School Key Club - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various Donations - \$1,594.19 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$1,088.27 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program (GAP)
Craig, Barbara and Kirk Schroll donation in memory of Frank Cashman - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Bartnik, Jr., to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors received emails regarding the Planning Commission's hearing about the construction of a Super Wal-Mart in Groton. They also received correspondence regarding Town government spending.

Councilor Bond received an email from a citizen expressing his opposition to the expansion of the Groton Senior Center.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors and the Gong Show at the Senior Center. She stated that there will not be a meeting of the Town Council Board of Education RTM Liaison Committee this month.

Councilor O'Beirne reminded residents that volunteers are still needed for the Charter Revision Commission and that interested individuals may contact the Town Clerk's office.

Mayor Watson gave opening remarks at a mentor training session at Fitch Middle School on February 7. He attended the Gong Show at the Senior Center on February 16.

b. Representative Town Meeting

No report.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox received communications from the United States Census Bureau requesting information for the 2007 census. Responding to the Mayor, the Town Clerk confirmed that four applications have been received for the Charter Revision Commission to date.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger reminded viewers that Group I, Group II, and the Committee of the Whole will be meeting on February 27. There will be a joint meeting with the City Council on March 6.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a special Committee of the Whole meeting prior to tonight's meeting in which State Senator Andrew Maynard, Representative Edward Moukawsher and Representative Elissa Wright were in attendance. At last week's COW meeting the Senior Center expansion was discussed, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo provided an overview of the Town's departments, updates were given on the animal shelter and water/sewer service on Flanders Road.

2007-0041 Open Space Plan

OPEN SPACE LAND

Referred

Upon the request of Councilor Sheets, the Mayor made a referral to the Committee of the Whole to discuss the Open Space plan.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2007-0032 Introduction of Mystic River Homes Tax Abatement Ordinance**

This matter was Introduced by the Mayor and Referred for Information only to the RTM to the Representative Town Meeting. The motion carried.

2007-0033 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Mystic River Homes Tax Abatement Ordinance

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE CONCERNING ENHANCED TAX ABATEMENT FOR MYSTIC RIVER HOMES, INC.

RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held by the Groton Town Council on the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Providing for an Enhanced Tax Abatement on Forty-Six Housing Units Owned by Mystic River Homes, Inc. and Used Solely for Rental to Low or Moderate-Income Persons or Families" on March 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*